GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4274
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
TELEMEDICINE SCHEME
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telemedicine scheme proposed for providing healthcare solutions in the rural areas;

(b) whether free of cost treatment to all the patients would be provided under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds released and utilized by different States during the last three years in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (d) The Government has launched National Rural Telemedicine Network (NRTN) initiative during FY 2007-08 for e-moding healthcare solutions in rural areas.Generic guidelines for setting up telemedicine initiatives have been disseminated to states along with seed funding for initiating the proposals. These guidelines include generic formats of Information Technology protocols, medical equipments and human resources required management structures etc. Subject to these guidelines,states are encouraged to scale up existing telemedicine initiatives and set up new initiatives to improve availability of healthcare services in rural areas using information technology tools.The NRTN is part of public health delivery system and no additional costs are expected to be incurred by users for accessing these services.

Under the NRTN,seed funding of Rs 1 crore each (to Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Haryana), Rs. 50 lakh each (to Orissa, Rajasthan, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Rs.53 lakh to Punjab) and Rs. 25 lakh (to each North eastern State) has been released during the first year of the scheme (i.e. FY 2007-08).